

FCC Commitee Members:

I am very concerned with the possibility of repealing, or relaxing, the rules governing cross-ownership in media. Due to the events of Sept. 11, all Americans have been watching, reading or listening to the news with a much keener eye and I must say that I have been disappointed. I believe allowing media giants to control a number of media outlets in one market will only cause newcasts to be more one-sided.

For consumers who have access to 120+ channels and Internet, these changes may not seem harmful as they have access to many other sources for their news, but to consumers with fewer options these changes could be devastating. As evidenced by the jump-the-gun election reporting of 2000 and the mis-reporting of many of the events surrounding and following Sept. 11, one can not always believe everything they see on television. Many are drawn to newspapers to get "another side of the story," but if restrictions are lifted to allow the same media company to own both outlets it will no longer be another side only a reiteration of the same story. This places severe limits on the publics access to balanced information and essentially limits the free speech of all Americans.

I ask that you not be swayed by corporate money and take pause to think about how this will effect every day citizens. I would hate to see the day when all media vehicles are controlled by one company.

Thank you,

Molly Schemper